IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the below claim amendments.

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

15. (previously presented) A floatation swimsuit comprising:

a form-fitting torso covering, said form-fitting torso covering including a retaining pocket;

a unitary floatation element for retention by said retaining pocket, said unitary floatation element including:

a backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material having a thickness within a first predetermined range for providing general buoyancy to a wearer, said backsheet including an inner surface for presentation toward a wearer and an outer surface for presentation away from a wearer; and

a plurality of raised portions integrally carried by said backsheet in fixed relative positions for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body, each of said raised portions comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said backsheet and each of said raised portions extending outwardly from said outer surface of said backsheet;

wherein said retaining pocket includes a sheet of fabric having an indicator dye which bleaches upon exposure to the elements to notify the wearer of degradation of the swimsuit components.

Claims 16-18 (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A floatation swimsuit, comprising:

a form-fitting torso covering, said form-fitting torso covering including a retaining pocket; and

PAGE 3/11 * RCVD AT 3/25/2005 3:18:25 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/6 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:+4045752391 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-28

a unitary flotation element for retention by said retaining pocket, said unitary flotation element comprising:

a backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material of a primary thickness within a first predetermined range, said buoyant material distributed substantially throughout the retaining pocket to provide general buoyancy about a wearer's torso,

and at least one enhanced buoyancy region integrally carried by said backsheet of buoyant material to provide enhanced buoyancy to a strategically selected portion of the wearer's torso relative to the general buoyancy provided by the buoyant material of primary thickness to the user's torso, said at least one enhanced buoyancy region comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said primary thickness and extending outwardly therefrom; **and**

wherein said form-fitting torso covering includes an indicator dye which bleaches upon exposure to the elements to notify the wearer of degradation of the swimsuit components.

20. (previously presented) The flotation swimsuit of claim 19, wherein said at least one enhanced buoyancy region is an upper torso region to provide enhanced buoyancy of an upper portion of the user's torso relative to the buoyancy generally provided to the user's torso by the backsheet.

21. (previously presented) The flotation swimsuit of claim 19, wherein said at least one enhanced buoyancy region is a lower torso region to provide enhanced buoyancy of a lower portion of the user's torso relative to the buoyancy generally provided to the user's torso by the backsheet.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The flotation swimsuit of claim 19, wherein said retaining pocket comprises a sheet of fabric laminated to the at least one enhanced buoyancy region to ensure that

PAGE 4/11 * RCVD AT 3/25/2005 3:18:25 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/6 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:+4045752391 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-28

said fabric sheet closely matches the contours of said backsheet and enhanced buoyancy regions of said unitary flotation element.

24. (previously presented) The flotation swimsuit of claim 19, wherein the flotation element comprises a flexion channel to permit the flotation element to flex.

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) The flotation swimsuit of claim 19, wherein the torso covering is adapted to protect the wearer from solar radiation.

27. (previously presented) The flotation swimsuit of claim 19, further comprising a fastenable torso opening.

28. (previously presented) The flotation swimsuit of claim 19, further comprising a pair of rear retaining pockets to retain a pair of rear flotation elements, wherein the rear flotation elements comprise a layer of buoyant material of a first thickness and at least one enhanced buoyancy region having a thickness greater than the first thickness.

29. (previously presented) The flotation swimsuit of claim 28, wherein at least one of the pair of rear flotation elements comprises a flexion channel to permit the rear flotation elements to flex.

30. (previously presented) The flotation swimsuit of claim 28, wherein the unitary flotation element comprises at least approximately fifty percent of the total buoyant force provided by the unitary flotation element and the rear flotation elements.

31. (currently amended) A flotation element **to use in a flotation swimsuit, the flotation element** comprising:

a backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material of a primary thickness within a first predetermined range, said buoyant material to provide general buoyancy about a wearer's torso,

and at least one enhanced buoyancy region integrally carried by said backsheet of buoyant material to provide enhanced buoyancy to a strategically selected portion of a wearer's torso relative to the general buoyancy provided by the buoyant material of primary thickness to a user's torso, said at least one enhanced buoyancy region comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said primary thickness and extending outwardly ~~therefrom~~ **away from a user and from the buoyant material of the primary thickness; and**

wherein the flotation swimsuit includes an indicator dye which bleaches upon exposure to the elements to notify the wearer of degradation of the swimsuit components.

32. (previously presented) The flotation element of claim 31, wherein said at least one enhanced buoyancy region is an upper torso region to provide enhanced buoyancy of an upper portion of the user's torso relative to the buoyancy generally provided to the user's torso by the backsheet.

33. (previously presented) The flotation element of claim 31, wherein said at least one enhanced buoyancy region is a lower torso region to provide enhanced buoyancy of a lower portion of the user's torso relative to the buoyancy generally provided to the user's torso by the backsheet.

34. (previously presented) The flotation element of claim 31, further comprising at least one flexion channel to permit the backsheet to flex.

35. (previously presented) The flotation element of claim 31, further comprising one upper torso enhanced buoyancy region and a plurality of lower torso enhanced buoyancy regions.

PAGE 6/11 * RCVD AT 3/25/2005 3:18:25 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/6 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:+4045752391 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-28

36. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a flotation swimsuit comprising:

providing a form-fitting torso covering having a retaining pocket;

providing a unitary flotation element comprising:

a layer of buoyant material of a primary thickness within a first predetermined range, said buoyant material to provide general buoyancy about a wearer's torso, and

at least one enhanced buoyancy region integrally carried by said backsheet of buoyant material to provide enhanced buoyancy to a strategically selected portion of the wearer's torso relative to the general buoyancy provided by the buoyant material of primary thickness to the user's torso, said at least one enhanced buoyancy region comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said primary thickness and extending outwardly therefrom;

positioning said unitary flotation element at a desired location adjacent said form-fitting torso covering; ~~and~~

securing said unitary flotation element within said retaining pocket; **and**

wherein at least one of said torso covering and said retaining pocket includes an indicator dye which bleaches upon exposure to the elements to notify the wearer of degradation of the swimsuit components.

PAGE 7/11 * RCVD AT 3/25/2005 3:18:25 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/6 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:+4045752391 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-28